## CLAIMS.

Various features of the invention are emphasized in the claims which follow.

What is claimed is:

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A compound having the formula: 1. R1 A1-A2-A3-W 5 R2 wherein: each R1 and R2, independently, is H, C1-C12 alkyl (e.g., methyl), C6-C18 aryl (e.g., phenyl), C1-C18 acyl (e.g., formyl, acetyl, and myristoyl), C7-C18 10 aralkyl (e.g., benzyl), C7-C18 alkaryl (e.g., p-methylphenyl) or a dihydrotrigonellinate group; Al is a D or L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of Cys, Leu, Dap, Trp, Gln, a tethered amino acid with an indole ring (e.g., N-Me-Trp), Phe, Hyp, any Trp derivative (e.g./2 chlorotroptophan, or Tce); CαMe-Trp, CαMe-15 Gln, Des-amino-Trp, Pyr, Sth, Nal, Tcc, Asn, Nva, Abu, Tyr, Tic-OH, Phe, Tip, and Dip; A2 is a D or L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of Cys, Trp, Arg, N-Me-Arg,  $C\alpha$ Me-Arg/Orn, Cit, hArg(R)2 [where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or alkylaryl], Lys-ε-NH-R 20 [where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or alkylaryl/; A3 is a D or L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of Glu, N-Me-Tyr, CaMe-Tyr, Tic-OH, Tic, Dip, Trp, Phe, des-carboxylic-Tyr (tyramine), and Tyr-(R) [where R is hydrogen or a lipophilic group, e.g., myristoyl, 25

cholesteryl, t.Bu, etc.];

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W is -OH, -N-R3R4, or OR5 (where R3, R4, and R5, independently, is H, C1-C12 alkyl (e.g., methyl), C6-C18 aryl (e-g-, phenyl), C1-C12 acyl (e.g., formyl, acetyl, and myristoyl), C7-C18 aralkyl (e.g., benzyl), or C7-C18 alkaryl (e.g., p-methylphenyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

each bond between two amino acids or amino acid derivatives, represented by a dash ("-"), can be either a peptide bond or a pseudopeptide bond or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

 The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound has a formula selected from the group consisting of N-α-Ac-Trp-Arg-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>, Ac-Gln-Arg-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>, Ac-Tcc-Arg-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>, Ac-Trp-Arg-Tic(OH)-NH<sub>2</sub>, and Ac-Tcc-Arg-Tic(OH)-NH<sub>2</sub>. 3. A compound having the formula:

wherein:

each R1 and R2, independently, is H, C1-C12 alkyl (e.g., methyl), C6-C18 aryl

(e.g., phenyl), C1-C18 acyl (e.g., formyl, acetyl, and myristoyl), C7-C18

aralkyl (e.g., benzyl), C7-C18 alkaryl (e.g., p-methylphenyl) or a

dihydrotrigonellinate group;

- A2 is a D or L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of Cys, Trp, Arg, N-Me-Arg, CαMe-Arg, Orn, Cit, hArg(R)2 [where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or alkylaryl], Lys-ε-NH-R [where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or alkylaryl];
- A3 is a D or L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of Glu, N-Me-Tyr, CαMe-Tyr, Tic-OH, Tic, Dip, Trp, Phe, des-carboxylic-Tyr (tyramine), and Tyr-(R) [where R is hydrogen or a lipophilic group, e.g., myristoyl, cholesteryl, t.Bu, etc.];
- W is -OH, -N-R3R4, or OR5 (where R3, R4, and R5, independently, is H, C1-C12 alkyl (e.g., methyl), C6-C18 aryl (e-g-, phenyl), C1-C12 acyl (e.g., formyl, acetyl, and myristoyl), C7-C18 aralkyl (e.g., benzyl), or C7-C18 alkaryl (e.g., p-methylphenyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

each bond between two amino acids or amino acid derivatives, represented by a dash ("-"), can be either a peptide bond or a pseudopeptide bond or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A compound having the formula:

wherein:

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each R1 and R2, independently, is H, C1-C12 alkyl (e.g., methyl), C6-C18 aryl

(e.g., phenyl), C1-C18 acyl (e.g., formyl, acetyl, and myristoyl), C7-C18

aralkyl (e.g., benzyl), C7-C18 alkaryl (e.g., p-methylphenyl) or a

dihydrotrigonellinate group;

A1 is a D or L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of Cys, Leu, Dap,
Trp, Gln, a tethered amino acid with an indole ring (e.g., N-Me-Trp), Phe,
Hyp, any Trp derivative (e.g., 2 chlorotroptophan, or Tcc); CαMe-Trp, CαMe-Gln, Des-amino-Trp, Pyr, Bth, Nal, Tcc, Asn, Nva, Abu, Tyr, Tic-OH, Phe,
Tip, and Dip;

A2 is a D or L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of Cys, Trp, Arg, N-Me-Arg, CαMe-Arg, Orn, Cit, hArg(R)2 [where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or alkylaryl], Lys-ε-NH-R [where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or alkylaryl];

W is -OH, -N-R3R4, or OR5 (where R3, R4, and R5, independently, is H, C1-C12 alkyl (e.g., methyl), C6-C18 aryl (e-g-, phenyl), C1-C12 acyl (e.g., formyl, acetyl, and myristoyl), C7-C18 aralkyl (e.g., benzyl), or C7-C18

alkaryl (e.g., p-methylphenyl); or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

- each bond between two amino acids or amino acid derivatives, represented by a dash ("-"), can be either a peptide bond or a pseudopeptide bond or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
  - 5. The compound of claim 3, wherein said compound has the formula Ac-Arg-Tyr-  $NH_2$ .
  - 6. The compound of claim 4, wherein said compound has the formula Ac-Trp-Arg- $NH_2$ .
  - 7. A compound according to claim 1 further having a formula selected from the group consisting of Cyclo-[-A1-A2-], Cyclo-[-A1-A2-A3-], Cyclo-[-A1-A2-A3-], and Cyclo-[-A1-A2-A3-A3-A2-A1-].
  - The compound of claim 7, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of Cyclo (30/34)[Leu 30, Trp 32, Glu 34,]NPY (30-36)-NH<sub>2</sub>, Cyclo (30/34)[Dap 30, Trp 32, Glu 34,]NPY (30-36)-NH<sub>2</sub>, and N-α-Ac-Cyclo(29/34)[D-Cys 29,34, Trp32]NPY(29-36)-NH2.
  - 9. A compound according to claim 1 further having the formula:

Ac- $[A1-A2-A3]_n$ -NH<sub>2</sub>, wherein n = 1, 2, or 3.

- 10. The compound of claim 9, wherein, said compound is a dimer of the compounds of claim 1
- 11. The compound of claim 10, wherein said dimer is prepared by dimerizing the compound with dicarboxylic acids (e.g., succinic acid), cystine, or diaminodicarboxylic acid (e.g., 2,6-diaminopimelic acid).
- 12. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is conjugated to a carrier selected from the group consisting of cationized albumin and polylysine.
- 13. The compound of claim 1, wherein the said bond between two amino acids or amino acid derivatives is selected from the group consisting of C(O)NH, CH<sub>2</sub>NH, CH<sub>2</sub>-S, CH<sub>2</sub>-O, CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>-CO, and CH<sub>2</sub> CH<sub>2</sub>).
- 14. The compound of claim 13, wherein a pseudopeptide bond is positioned between A1 and A2.
- 15. The compound of claim /4, wherein a pseudopeptide bond is positioned between A2 and A3.

- 16. The compound of claim 3, wherein the said bond between two amino acids or amino acid derivatives is selected from the group consisting of C(O)NH, CH<sub>2</sub>NH, CH<sub>2</sub>-S, CH<sub>2</sub>-O, CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>-CO, and CH<sub>2</sub> CH<sub>2</sub>).
- 17. The compound of claim 4, wherein the said bond between two amino acids or amino acid derivatives is selected from the group consisting of C(O)NH, CH<sub>2</sub>NH, CH<sub>2</sub>-S, CH<sub>2</sub>-O, CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>-CO, and CH<sub>2</sub> CH<sub>2</sub>).
- 18. A therapeutic composition capable of controlling an NPY mediated physiological response comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 1, claim 3, claim 4, claim 7 or claim 9 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier substance.
- 19. The composition of claim 18, wherein said composition is in the form of a pill, tablet, or capsule for oral administration to a subject in need of said compound.
- 20. The composition of claim 18, wherein said composition is in the form of a liquid for oral administration to a subject in need of said compound.
- 21. The composition of claim 1/8, wherein said composition being is in the form of a liquid for nasal administration as drops or spray to a subject in need of said composition.

- 22. The composition of claim 18, wherein said composition is in the form of a liquid for intravenous, subcutaneous, parenteral, or intraperitoneal administration to a subject in need of said composition.
- 23. The composition of claim 18, wherein said composition is in the form of a biodegradable sustained- release composition for intramuscular administration to a subject in need of said composition.
- 24. The composition of claim 18, wherein said composition includes a lipophilic salt and is suitable for administration in the form of an oil emulsion or dispersion to a subject in need of said composition.
- 25. A method for suppressing an NPY mediated physiological response in a subject comprising administering to said subject a compound of claim 1, claim 3, claim 4, claim 7 or claim 9.
- 26. The method of claim 25, wherein said administration lowers the blood pressure of said subject.
- 27. The method of claim 25, wherein said administration suppresses the appetite of said subject.

- 28. The method of claim 25, wherein said administration augments the libido of said subject.
- 29. The method of claim 25, wherein said administration stimulates cardiovascular function of said subject.
- 30. The method of claim 25, wherein said administration modulates the circadian rhythm of said subject.
- 31. A method of suppressing an NPY mediated physiological response in a tissue other than the heart in a subject comprising administering to said subject a compound of claim 1, claim 3, claim 4, claim 7 or claim 9.
- 32. The method of claim 31, wherein said compound suppresses the activity of the NPY receptor.
- 33. The method of claim 32, wherein said compound suppresses the activity of the NPY receptor.
- 34. A method of suppressing a NPY receptor mediated physiological response in the hypothalamus of a subject comprising administering to said subject the compound of claim 1.

- 35. A method of suppressing the blood pressure of a subject experiencing hypertension which comprises administering to said subject the compound of claim 1.
- 36. A method of suppressing a NPY receptor mediated physiological response in the cardiovascular system of a subject comprising administering to said subject the compound of claim 1.
- 37. A method for stimulating an NPY mediated physiological response in a subject comprising administering to said subject a compound of claim 1, claim 3, claim 4, claim 7 or claim 9.
- 38. The method of claim 37, wherein said administration increases the blood pressure of said subject.
- 39. The method of claim 38, wherein said administration increases the appetite of said subject.

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